“We Will Always Fight.”

Asma and Taylor

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[After ten meetings and over sixteen hours of interviews, Asma and I decided we had to stop somewhere. She and I listened to the recordings and discussed how we wanted to organize this project over lunch at a Somalian restaurant she likes. We then moved to a nearby library and continued our planning. Earlier in the day, she mentioned adding a conclusion to the piece. This selection from the last minutes of our conversation that day is that new conclusion.]

T: All right, what time is it? It is 3:43. We’ve—Are you—do you want to stay? Do you have anything else you wanna share, or do you have to get back home?

A: No, no. If you have a question. [laughs, we begin to pack up]

T: I don’t know if I do…

A: If you have a question… I know we had a long time today for talking and questions. [sighs]

T: I think that’s it.

A: That’s it for today.

T: That’s it for today?

A: Maybe after you left—Yeah. After you do some work, maybe you, we’ll find some questions.

T: I’ll send some stuff, yeah—Oh! You talked about—you wanted a different conclusion!

A: Yeah!

T: That’s the thing that you didn’t share!

A: Mhm.

T: We can, we can record that another time, but just so I have…like, an idea?

A: Um, I was thinking the conclusion is, um. So, I…when I listen all the record?

T: Mhm.

A: I know they’re not organized, I know that. I know that. But the—it’s, it’s also like this. [gestures to the piece of paper with possible outlines on it]. Like, we go to Somalia, Syria, and everything. And then the conclusion is…I always—you ask me some question. You say, “[Asma], where did you feel is home?”

T: Yeah.

A: Right? And I answer, maybe different question? But I didn’t like it, but the way I answer I say, “Home? Home? My house? My mom house?” Remember that thing?

T: Mhm.

A: I was getting confused with the question was earlier, when you—Yeah. Um…My home is here. Yeah.

T: Here?

A: My home in—Yeah, is here, the only home I have ever spent…A secure and safe, is here. I am not thinking to travel any otherwhere.

T: Yeah?

A: This is my home, and…

T: This will *be* your home, too? In the future?

A: Yeah. Will be home, too, in the future.

T: What about—would you still call your mom "home," though?

A: Um, every time I, I, you—I hear "home?"

T: [murmurs] You think of your mom?

A: My mom is coming to me, the picture I have it.

T: Your mom? And your home now?

A: My home now. My home now. And I'm trying to compare…

T: Combine? Combine them?

A: Combine. Combine—this is not compare, the compare is… [laughs]

T: Hey, you are learning the language, you are getting the lingo down. [A laughs] You're getting there. [laughs, clears throat].

A: Combine them, one home, it will be in, in United State.

T: Combine them. And you want it here. [writing]

A: Yeah, I want it here, yeah. And…And another, another question…

T: That, that can be—is that the last thing?

A: Yes.

T: That's the last thing you want shared.

A: That's what I, what I think, yeah. I, I told you…

T: The future. That's what you want. The future and, what is home.

A: Yeah. And you ask me another question?

T: Mhm.

A: Um…You told me, "What, what do you like in your future to be?"

T: Yeah.

A: And I told you, “Oh, I wanna get some degree, I want my husband change his job,” and I told you, “I want my kids learn my language, my home language…”

T: Mhm.

A: And my, um, my mo—my, um, [Muhammad] gonna learn something like that. And then I forget something. So, I told you I learn the religion first, right?

T: Mhm.

A: But here, the kids have to go to school…when they grow up like a little bit, six years old.

T: Yeah.

A: Yeah. We had a system—those refugee people, they had a system in, in, in everywhere they go. They go Australia, they go England, they go United—if they come United States…

T: Mhm.

A: They have it, own system, I don’t think so, nobody else know, unless you are part of the community.

T: Mhm.

A: That system is the weekend, Saturday and Sunday, we have the weekend, right?

T: Yeah.

A: The weekend, kids are going to sch—going to Islamic school.

T: Oh. And you want your kids to go to Islamic school.

A: Yes. And we gonna start it after [Muhammad] gonna be seven years old. Yep. We just wait little bit kids understand anything, not everything.

T: Okay.

A: So, now if I put him in that Islamic school—some, some family, they put him in early…

T: Yeah.

A: But I don’t want him to get confused.

T: Yeah.

A: So I’m gonna wait until two years, he attending the school.

T: Right. And then, do both.

A: And then I say, “Okay, on the weekend, you have Islamic school for two hours.”

T: Cool.

A: Yeah. So I…

T: And you'll do that with both your daughters, too?

A: Yes. I will do it, absolutely. Unless they say, "Mommy, enough." [T coughs]. Yeah, I will do absolutely all my kids, like my uncle? His kids always go to the weekend school.

T: Mhm.

A: So, being refugee, is a lot of hard work.

T: Mhm.

A: The parents. Because…they wanna teach their kids…something of their religions, of their cultures. And they also wanna be a part of the country they live.

T: Mhm.

A: So, a lot of kids get confused—

T: Yeah.

A: —But a lot of kids get success. We, we have a lot of S-Somalian kids get success for religion in Islamic school…

T: "Success," is that what you're saying?

A: Success, yes, they get success, yeah. Islamic school, both, too.

T: Mhm.

A: And graduate high school and finish the Qur'an.

T: Cool.

A: And learn some messages, yeah, and um, yeah. Even the weekend, we are not gonna rest.

T: Yeah.

A: We will always fight. [laughs] Yeah.

T: [laughs] "Even the weekend, we're not gonna rest."

A: Yeah.

T: "We'll always fight."

A: [laughs] Yes.